What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing images, wherein

inputted image data is subjected to image processes and the processed image data is outputted, comprising the steps of

sequentially dividing inputted image data into small blocks of image data, each having a data volume according to the characteristics of an image process to be performed,

sequentially performing an image process on said small blocks of image data to sequentially obtain small blocks of processed image data,

and sequentially outputting said small blocks of processed image data to an output destination.

2. A method of processing images as defined in claim 1, wherein

said inputted image data is divided into said small blocks of data in accordance with the access characteristics of said inputted image data.

3. A method of processing images as defined in claim 1, wherein

said inputted image data is cached, and

said cached inputted imaged data is divided into the small blocks of image data.

4. A method of processing images as defined in claim 1, wherein

said processed small blocks of image data are sequentially cached, and

output data is outputted from said cached small blocks of processed image data, according to the characteristics of the output destination.

5. A method of processing images as defined in claims 1, wherein

the image processes are performed in accordance with the characteristics of the inputted image data and/or the characteristics of the output destination.

6. A method of processing images as defined in claim 1, wherein

a determination is made as to whether or not the image process dependent on the output destination is valid or not, based on the characteristics of the input destination of the inputted image data and the output characteristics of the output destination, and

for cases in which it is determined that the image process dependent on the output destination is valid, the processing dependent on said output destination is substituted for the aforementioned processing.

7. An image processing apparatus for subjecting inputted image data to image processes and output processed image data, and which comprises

an input means for sequentially dividing inputted image data into small blocks of image data according to the characteristics of the image processes to be performed,

a processing means for sequentially subjecting said small

blocks of image data to an image process to sequentially obtain small blocks of processed image data, and

an output means for sequentially outputting said small blocks of processed image data to an output destination.

8. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein

the input means is a means for dividing the inputted image data into small blocks in accordance with the access characteristics of said inputted image data, also.

9. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising

an input caching means for caching the inputted image data, wherein

the input means is a means for dividing the cached inputted image data into small blocks of image data.

10. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising

an output caching means for sequentially caching the small blocks of processed image data, wherein

the output means is a means for outputting output data from said cached small blocks of processed image data according to the characteristics of the output destination.

11. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein

the image processing means is a means for performing image processes based on the characteristics of the inputted image data

and/or the characteristics of the output destination.

12. An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising

a control means for determining whether the image process dependent on the output destination of the inputted image data is valid, based on the characteristics of the input destination of the inputted image data and the output characteristics of the output destination, and

controlling, for cases in which it has been determined that the image process dependent on the output destination is valid, the image processing means so that the processing dependent on the output destination is performed instead of the aforementioned processing.

13. A computer readable storage medium capable of recording a program that causes a computer to execute the image processing method wherein inputted image data is subjected to an image process and the thus processed image data is outputted, comprising

a procedure for sequentially dividing inputted image data into small blocks of image data, each having a data volume according to the characteristics of an image process to be performed,

a procedure for sequentially performing an image process on said small blocks of image data to sequentially obtain small blocks of processed image data,

and a procedure for sequentially outputting said small

blocks of processed image data to an output destination.

14. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 13, wherein

the procedure for dividing the inputted image data into the small blocks of data is a procedure for procedure for dividing the inputted image data into the small blocks of data in accordance with the access characteristics of said inputted image data.

15. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 13, further comprising

an input caching procedure for caching the inputted image data, wherein

the procedure for dividing the inputted image data into the small blocks of data is a procedure for dividing the cached inputted image data into the small blocks of image data.

16. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 13, further comprising

an output caching procedure for sequentially caching the small blocks of processed image data, wherein

the procedure for outputting the small blocks of processed image data is a procedure for outputting output data from said cached small blocks of processed image data according to the characteristics of the output destination.

17. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 13, wherein

the procedure for obtaining the small blocks of processed

image data is a procedure for performing image processes based on the characteristics of the inputted image data and/or the characteristics of the output destination.

18. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 13, further comprising

a control procedure for determining whether the image process dependent on the output destination of the inputted image data is valid, based on the characteristics of the input destination of the inputted image data and the output characteristics of the output destination, and

a procedure for performing, for cases in which it has been determined that the image process dependent on the output destination is valid, the image processing procedure so that the processing dependent on the output destination is performed instead of the aforementioned processing.